

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 232

Expressing the condolences of the Senate upon the death on September 3, 2003, of the late General Raymond G. Davis (United States Marine Corps, retired) and expressing the appreciation and admiration of the Senate for the unwavering commitment demonstrated by General Davis to his family, the Marine Corps, and the Nation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

Mr. MILLER (for himself, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. CORZINE)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the condolences of the Senate upon the death on September 3, 2003, of the late General Raymond G. Davis (United States Marine Corps, retired) and expressing the appreciation and admiration of the Senate for the unwavering commitment demonstrated by General Davis to his family, the Marine Corps, and the Nation.

Whereas General Raymond Gilbert Davis (United States Marine Corps, retired) of Stockbridge, Georgia, an American hero who represented the supreme ideals of an American and a Marine, died on Wednesday, September 3, 2003, at the age of 88;

Whereas Raymond Gilbert Davis, born on January 13, 1915, in Fitzgerald, Georgia, was commissioned as a second

lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1938 following graduation from the Georgia School of Technology;

Whereas during World War II, he participated in the Guadalcanal Tulagi landings, the capture and defense of Guadalcanal, the Eastern New Guinea and Cape Gloucester campaigns, and the Peleliu operation;

Whereas during the fighting on Peleliu, although wounded during the first hour of the landing, he refused evacuation to remain with his men and, on one occasion, when heavy Marine casualties and the enemy's point-blank cannon fire had enabled the Japanese to break through, he personally rallied and led his men in fighting to reestablish defense positions;

Whereas his actions while commanding the 1st Battalion of the 1st Marines at Peleliu in September 1944 earned him the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart and a promotion to lieutenant colonel;

Whereas returning to the United States in November 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Davis was assigned to the Quantico Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia, as Tactical Inspector, Marine Corps Schools, and was named chief of the Infantry Section, Marine Air-Infantry School, Quantico, in May 1945, and served in that post for two years before returning to the Pacific area in July 1947 to serve with the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade on Guam;

Whereas following other peace-time duties, in August 1950 he embarked for Korea to command the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, in the Korean conflict and, in that capacity, heroically enabled the historic breakout of the 1st Marine Division from an entrapment

by overwhelming numbers of Chinese soldiers at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea;

Whereas on the night before the breakout then Lieutenant Colonel Davis led his battalion in an epic across-country fight against vastly superior numbers of entrenched enemy soldiers, across ice- and snow-covered terrain, in subzero temperatures to save a beleaguered rifle company and seize a critical mountain pass that enabled the escape of two Marine regiments, arriving three days later at the port of Hagaru-ri with every one of his wounded Marines;

Whereas as a result of his actions in Korea, Lieutenant Colonel Davis was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Chosin Reservoir, twice earned the Silver Star Medal by exposing himself to heavy enemy fire while leading and encouraging his men in the face of strong enemy opposition, received the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for exceptionally meritorious conduct and professional skill in welding the 1st Battalion into a highly effective combat team, and earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for his part in rebuilding the regiment after the Chosin Reservoir campaign;

Whereas following service in the Korean conflict, Lieutenant Colonel Davis served in a series of increasingly responsible staff and training positions, while being promoted to colonel in October 1953 and brigadier general in July 1963;

Whereas his first assignment as a general officer was in the Far East where he served as Assistant Division Commander, 3d Marine Division, on Okinawa, from October 1963 to November 1964;

Whereas he was assigned to Headquarters, Marine Corps, from December 1964 until March 1968 and during that service was awarded a second Legion of Merit and was promoted to major general;

Whereas when ordered to the Republic of Vietnam in March 1968, Major General Davis served briefly as Deputy Commanding General, Provisional Corps, and then became Commanding General, 3d Marine Division where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and three personal decorations by the Vietnamese Government for service in the latter capacity from May 2, 1968 until April 14, 1969;

Whereas upon his return to the United States in May 1969, he was assigned duty as Deputy for Education with additional duty as Director, Education Center, Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, Virginia, and upon his promotion to lieutenant general on July 1, 1970, he was assigned as Commanding General, Marine Corps Development and Education Command;

Whereas on February 23, 1971, President Nixon nominated General Davis for appointment to the grade of general and assignment to the position of Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and, after confirmation by the Senate for service in that position, he received his fourth star upon assuming those duties on March 12, 1971;

Whereas upon his retirement on March 31, 1972, after more than 33 years of active commissioned service, he ended his military career as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, the second highest ranking Marine;

Whereas General Davis' decorations include the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal

with Gold Star in lieu of a second award, the Silver Star Medal with Gold Star in lieu of a second award, the Legion of Merit with Combat “V” and Gold Star in lieu of a second award, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat “V”, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation with four bronze stars indicative of second through fifth awards, the Navy Unit Commendation, numerous campaign and service medals, and numerous foreign decorations;

Whereas following retirement from his beloved Corps, General Davis directed the Georgia Chamber of Commerce for several years and later took on the challenge of design, funding, and dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC;

Whereas General Davis continued to work in support of issues concerning the national interest, including a visit to North Korea in an effort to persuade that government to allow more travel and to become more active in identifying missing American soldiers; and

Whereas General Raymond G. Davis is survived by his wife of 61 years, Knox Heafner Davis, two sons Raymond Gil Davis Jr. of Covington, Georgia, and Gordon Miles Davis of Seminole, Alabama, a daughter Willa Kerr of Stockbridge, Georgia, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. CONDOLENCES AND RECOGNITION.**

3 The Senate—

4 (1) has learned with profound sorrow of the
5 death of General Raymond G. Davis (United States

1 Marine Corps, retired) on September 3, 2003, and
2 extends its condolences to his family; and

3 (2) recognizes and expresses its appreciation
4 and admiration for the unwavering commitment
5 demonstrated by General Davis to his family, the
6 Marine Corps, and the Nation.

7 **SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.**

8 The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an en-
9 rolled copy of this resolution to the family of General Ray-
10 mond G. Davis.

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